Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a composition, said composition comprising a heterologous gene product and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) inserting a gene coding for ~~a~~ the heterologous gene product into an expression vector;

(b) transforming said expression vector into a commensal *Neisseria*;

(c) expressing said heterologous gene product in said commensal *Neisseria*;

(d) obtaining ~~an immunogenic component or extract~~ said heterologous gene product from the *Neisseria* of (c); and

(e) combining ~~the immunogenic component or extract~~ the heterologous gene product of (d) with ~~a~~ the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said heterologous gene product is selected from (1) a product of a gene of a non-*Neisserial* organism and (2) a product of a gene of a pathogenic *Neisseria*.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said commensal *Neisseria* is selected from the group consisting of *N. cinerea, N. lactamica, N. elongata, N. flava, N. flavescens, N. polysaccharea, N. sicca, N. mucosa, N. perflava* and *N. subflava*.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the commensal *Neisseria* expresses~~ the heterologous gene product is the product of a gene ~~or a fragment thereof~~ from a pathogenic *Neisseria*.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein ~~the commensal *Neisseria* expresses a gene which encodes a protein from *N. meningitidis*~~ the heterologous gene product is selected from the group consisting of transferrin binding protein; a Cu,Zn-SOD; an NspA; a porin; an outer membrane protein and fragments thereof.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said obtaining comprises:

(i) suspending said commensal Neisseria cells in the presence of detergent; and

(ii) incubating the suspension so as to extract a protein fraction from the cells.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the protein fraction is of molecular weight 50 kDa or lower when measured by SDS-PAGE.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the protein fraction is of molecular weight ~~at least~~ from 40 kDa ~~and up~~ to 90 kDa when measured by SDS-PAGE.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the protein fraction is of molecular weight at least 80 kDa when measured by SDS-PAGE.

9-18. (Canceled).

19. (Original) A composition obtained by the method of claim 1.

20-21 (Canceled).